

Message Text

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41

ACTION EUR-08

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8293

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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AMEMBASSY BONN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 02362

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: CGEN, PFOR, GE, FR, GW, US

SUBJECT: GDR-US CONSULAR CONVENTION NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 33524

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED SUBSTANCE OF STATE 33524 WITH DIXON AND RUSSELL OF FCO NATIONALITY AND TREATY DEPARTMENT. THEY EXPRESSED GRATITUDE ABOUT BEING KEPT INFORMED ON US-GDR CONVENTION NEGOTIATIONS. THEY WERE ESPECIALLY GLAD TO HEAR US HAD TAKEN STRONG STAND ON NATIONALITY ISSUE IN INITIAL SESSION AND ASKED WHAT GDR RESPONSE HAD BEEN.

2. WITH REGARD TO STATUS OF EAST BERLIN, BRITISH HAVE ATTEMPTED TO AVOID ANY REFERENCE TO TERRITORY OF GDR. BRITISH WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY LANGUAGE WHICH COULD BY INTERPRETATION MEAN THEY RECOGNIZE EAST BERLIN IN THE GDR. BRITISH ASSUME US DRAFT ARTICLE 24 REFERRED TO IS SIMILAR TO ARTICLE 24 IN US-CZECH CONVENTION WHICH DEALS
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EXCLUSIVELY WITH TAXES AND DUTIES IN CASE OF DEATH OF

CONSULAR OFFICIAL RATHER THAN OF ANY AMERICAN CITIZEN.
PARALLEL CLAUSE IN GDR-UK CONVENTION USES PHRASE "IN THE
GDR." THIS CLAUSE HAS NOT YET BEEN AGREED, BUT BRITISH
BELIEVE THEY CAN ACCEPT THIS LANGUAGE.

3. IN A QUITE UNRELATED OTHER SECTION OF THE CONVENTION,
BRITISH WILL PROBABLY ACCEPT PHRASEOLOGY "IN THE RECEIV-
ING STATE."

4. ADDITIONAL PROBLEM WHICH HAS ARISEN IN CONVENTION
NEGOTIATIONS FOR BRITAIN IS GDR PROPOSAL ON SETTLEMENT
OF ESTATES. GDR WISHES HMG TO TAKE OVER EXECUTION OF
ESTATE JUDGMENTS BY STATE AUTHORITIES. THIS, ACCORDING
TO BRITISH LAW, IS NOT POSSIBLE SINCE EXECUTION IS
RESPONSIBILITY OF EXECUTOR OF ESTATE NAMED BY WILL OR
BY COURT AUTHORITIES IN EVENT OF NO WILL. BRITISH WOULD
LIKE TO BE KEPT INFORMED ON STANCE GDR TAKES IN TALKS
WITH US ON THIS PROBLEM.

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